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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,065	09/16/2003	Nicolas D.L. Jones	Wdhd 245	2047

7590 05/19/2004

James J. Hill
Ste. 3000
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,065

Applicant(s)

JONES ET AL.

Examiner

Eron J Sorrell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20040512.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-913) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyatt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,590 hereinafter "Hyatt") in view of Caspers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,651,110 hereinafter "Caspers").

3. Referring to claim 1, Hyatt teaches an active connectivity module representing a node in an industrial control network comprising:

a housing (see item 11 in figure 1 and lines 43-55 of column 3);

first and second bus data connectors mounted to said housing and providing connectivity to a data bus of said network (see paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4);

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a plurality of device data connectors mounted to said housing and each associated with an input device or an output device (see paragraph bridging columns 3 and 4);

a central processor unit connected to said network and to said data bus and input devices or output devices by means of said device data connectors (see lines 43-55 of column 3);

and a memory module coupled to said central processor unit and removably mounted on said housing, said memory unit in signal communication with said central processor unit (see lines 3-13 of column 4).

Hyatt fails to teach the limitation of the memory unit storing at least address data representing the address of a network node with which said module is associated, and network configuration data including data sheet parameters associated with said node.

Caspers teaches, in an analogous apparatus, a memory unit storing at least address data representing the address of a network node with which said module is associated, and network configuration data including data sheet parameters associated with said node (see lines 1-30 of column 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Hyatt with the above teachings of Casper. One of

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ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification in order to allow for simplified programming and provide dedicated memory for specific types of data useful in identifying, monitoring and controlling system components (see lines 38-44 of column 1).

4. Referring to claim 2, Hyatt teaches the device data connectors comprise a plurality of data connectors associated respectively with corresponding input devices (see paragraph bridging column 3 and 4).

5. Referring to claim 3, Hyatt teaches the device data connectors comprise a plurality of data connectors associated with an output device (see paragraph bridging column 3 and 4).

6. Referring to claim 4, Hyatt teaches the device data connectors include a plurality of data connectors each associated with an input device whereby said module is capable of communicating with both input devices and output devices (see figure 1 and paragraph bridging column 3 and 4).

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7. Referring to claims 5 and 6, Caspers discloses the address data includes data representative of the node address, the MAC identification, and an IP address associated with the address of said node and the network configuration parameters including data sheet parameters, GDS parameters, network system parameters, TCP/IP configuration and DHCP server information. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said data stored in said removable (see lines 1-30 of column 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Hyatt with the above teachings of Caspers because this configuration information is essential for controlling the module.

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyatt in view of Caspers as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of DeMotte et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,518,980 hereinafere "DeMotte").

9. Referring to claim 7, the combination of Hyatt and Caspers fails to teach the data stored in said removable memory module includes storage and maintenance data, including an error log and initial startup parameters and date and time data.

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DeMotte teaches, in an analogous apparatus, data stored in the memory includes storage and maintenance data, including an error log and initial startup parameters and date and time data (see lines 35-59 of column 2).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Hyatt and Caspers with the above teachings of DeMotte. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention would have been motivated to make such modification for future maintenance activities.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following reference is cited as it shows a configurable computer with detachable memory:

U.S. Patent No. 4,827,408 to Shimomura.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J Sorrell whose telephone number is 703 305-7800. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on 703 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EJS

May 12, 2004